



Date: October 2009
Public Information Office: +93 (0)70-234-236 x4369
E-mail: kabulusaidinformation@usaid.gov
<http://afghanistan.usaid.gov>

FACT SHEET

Tuberculosis Control Assistance Program (TB CAP)

OVERVIEW

In Afghanistan, tuberculosis (TB) is one of the main public health burdens. According to the World Health Organization's *Global Tuberculosis Control Report 2009*, approximately 46,000 new TB cases occur annually in Afghanistan, and 8,200 people in the country died from TB in 2007. USAID's Tuberculosis Control Assistance Program (TB CAP) in Afghanistan strengthens the managerial capacity of the National Tuberculosis Program (NTP) and expands access to Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) in Kabul. DOTS is considered the most effective, low-cost strategy to detect, treat, and cure TB. TB CAP/Afghanistan is implemented by Management Sciences for Health in partnership with the Dutch Tuberculosis Foundation (KNCV) and the World Health Organization.

ACTIVITIES

- **Sustaining government support** – Provides technical assistance to the NTP to ensure a high level of political commitment to fighting tuberculosis. TB CAP is revitalizing the Tuberculosis Task Force, conducting annual operational planning, establishing the *Stop TB* partnership at the national and provincial levels, and assisting the MoPH to revise the national health plan.
- **Improving leadership and management** – Supports the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in updating national guidelines and manuals; introducing standard operating procedures; strengthening reporting and recording; and conducting training for NTP staff on local care delivery, report writing, and internet use.
- **Strengthening integration of DOTS services into general health services** – Ensures that quality DOTS services are provided to patients by improving lab microscopy, training community health workers to implement DOTS, strengthening reporting, and providing technical and financial assistance to laboratories in 41 health centers.
- **Improving access to TB care for vulnerable populations** – Builds local capacity to conduct research and design operational plans to serve nomads, the displaced, and prisoners with TB.
- **Expanding TB infection control measures** – Introduces state-of-the-art TB infection control measures to NTP and develops staff capacity to implement these measures.
- **Increasing coordination and collaboration with the public and private sectors** – Engages all stakeholders in the provision of quality DOTS through the design and implementation of a DOTS program in Kabul.
- **Building the capacity of health workers** – Ensures that the national human resources development plan includes training on TB and job aids for health workers.

RESULTS

- Trained 1,697 community health workers to administer DOTS.
- 3,107 potential TB cases were identified and referred by community health workers; 297 patients tested positive and are receiving DOTS from the community health workers.
- Upgraded laboratory services in 10 basic health centers.
- Distributed 2,000 DOTS treatment packages to health facilities.
- Trained 500 health workers on TB detection and treatment.
- Mobilized 85,000 individuals to celebrate World TB Day in 2009 and distributed 50,000 pamphlets and other TB education materials.
- Trained 52 senior National Tuberculosis Program staff on leadership and organizational development. 200 individuals, including the Minister of Public Health, attended a workshop on Urban-DOTS – the protocol for treatment of TB in urban areas.

###